

Docket No.
126688/0037



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Douglas G. Evans, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 3731

Application No.: 10/633,254

Examiner: **Not Yet Known**

Filed: **August 1, 2003**

For: **SELF-ANCHORING SLING AND INTRODUCER SYSTEM**

Date: **May 5, 2004**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL" (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

Return Postcard; Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs); FORM PTO 1449 (7 pgs.); 67 References

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David L. Schaeffer

(Typed Or Printed Name Of Person Mailing Correspondence)

(Signature Of Person Mailing Correspondence)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed List of References Cited by Applicant(s) form (PTO-1449).

Copies of the listed publications and foreign references are enclosed. Copies of the cited U.S. references have not been provided, in accordance with the Notice entitled "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003" set forth at 1276 O.G. 55.¹ The present application, it should be noted, was filed after June 30, 2003, on August 1, 2003.

¹ The relevant portion of that Notice reads:

Waiver

The Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003. See 37 CFR 1.491(b). For all patent applications filed on or before June 30, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are still required unless an eIDS is filed.

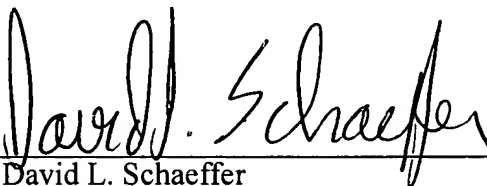
This Information Disclosure Statement is being cited in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing of an Office Action, and so no fee is believed to be due.

Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, as well as any other fee which may now or hereafter be due, to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed List of References Cited by Applicant(s) form (PTO-1449) be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Applicants are still required to submit copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 126688/0037		APPLICATION NO. 10/633,254	
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,638,210	10/28/03	Berger			
		6,638,211	10/28/03	Suslian et al.			
		2001/0049467	12/06/01	Lehe et al.			
		2001/0053916	12/20/01	Rioux			
		2002/0007222	01/17/02	Desai			
		2002/0028980	03/07/02	Thierfelder et al.			
		2002/0052653	05/02/02	Durgin			
		2002/0058959	05/16/02	Gellman			
		2002/0072694	06/13/02	Snitkin et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		WO 02/058565 A2	08/01/02	WIPO			
		WO 02/062237	08/15/02	WIPO			
		WO 02/065921 A1	08/29/02	WIPO			
		WO 02/065922 A1	08/29/02	WIPO			
		WO 02/065923 A1	08/29/02	WIPO			
		WO 02/071931 A1	09/19/02	WIPO			
		EP 0 983 033 A	10/09/02	EPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	RIDLEY, JOHN H.; "Appraisal of the Goebell-Frangenheim-Stoeckel sling procedure"; (publication date unknown)
	STANTON, STUART L.; "Suprapubic Approaches for Stress Incontinence in Women"; (publication date unknown)
	STASKIN, DAVID R., CHOE, JONG M., BRESLIN, DAVID S.; "The Gore-Tex sling procedure for female sphincteric incontinence: indications, technique, and results"; World J. Urol.; 1997
	CHOE, JONG M., STASKIN, DAVID R.; "Gore-Tex Patch Sling: 7 Years Later"; 1999
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">EXAMINER</div> <div style="width: 45%;">DATE CONSIDERED</div> </div>	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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		2002/0077526	06/20/02	Kammerer et al.			
		2002/0099258	07/25/02	Staskin et al.			
		2002/0147382	10/10/02	Neisz et al.			
		2002/0151762	10/17/02	Rocheleau et al.			
		2002/0188169	12/12/02	Kammerer et al.			
		2003/0023136	01/30/03	Raz et al.			
		2003/0023138	01/30/03	Luscombe			
		2003/0050530	03/13/03	Neisz et al.			
		2003/0065246	04/03/03	Inman et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		WO 02/098322 A1	12/12/02	WIPO			
		WO 03/002027 A1	01/09/03	WIPO			
		WO 03/013369 A1	02/20/03	WIPO			
		WO 03/068107 A1	08/21/03	WIPO			
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		DE 102 11 360	10/09/03	GERMANY			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		
		COOK; Urogynecology; Product Technical Datasheet and Order form
		WALTERS, MARK D.; "Percutaneous Suburethral Slings: State of the Art"; (publication date unknown)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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		2003/0171644	09/11/03	Anderson et al.			
		2003/0176762	09/18/03	Kammerer			
		2003/0176875	09/18/03	Anderson et al.			
		2003/0212305	11/13/03	Anderson et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		WO 03/092546 A2	11/13/03	WIPO			
		WO 03/096928	11/27/03	WIPO			
		WO 03/096930	11/27/03	WIPO			

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		6,110,101	08/29/00	Tihon et al.			
		6,197,036	03/06/01	Tripp et al.			
		6,221,060	04/24/01	Willard			
		6,273,852	08/14/01	Lehe et al.			
		6,382,214	05/07/02	Raz et al.			
		6,406,423	06/18/02	Scetbon			
		6,440,154	08/27/02	Gellman et al.			
		6,475,139	11/05/02	Miller			
		6,612,977	09/02/03	Staskin et al.			

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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
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		WO 02/28312	04/11/02	WIPO			
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		WO 02/058563 A1	08/01/02	WIPO			
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	5,123,910	06/23/92	McIntosh			
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	BRYANS, FRED E.; "Marlex gauze hammock sling operation with Cooper's ligament attachment in the management of recurrent urinary stress incontinence" 1979
	BURCH, JOHN C.; "Urethrovaginal fixation to Cooper's ligament for correction of stress incontinence, cystocele, and prolapse" (publication date unknown)
	FALCONER, C., EKMAN-ORDEBERG, G., MALMSTROM, A., ULMSTEN, U.; "Clinical Outcome and Changes in Connective Tissue Metabolism After Intravaginal Slingplasty in Stress Incontinent Women"; The International Urogynecology Journal; 1996
	FALCONER, C., SODERBERG, M., BLOMGREN, B., ULMSTEN, U.; "Influence of Different Sling Materials on Connective Tissue Metabolism in Stress Urinary Incontinent Women"; The International Urogynecology Journal; 2001

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		5,474,543	12/12/95	McKay			
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		5,647,836	07/15/97	Blake, III et al.			
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	/	EP 0 740 925 B	03/03/99	EPO			
	/	WO 00/18325	04/06/00	WIPO			
	/	WO 00/27304	05/18/00	WIPO			
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		WO 00/74594 A1	12/14/00	WIPO			
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	/	WO 00/74633 A2	12/14/00	WIPO			

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	HORBACH, NICOLETTE S.; "Suburethral Sling Procedures"; Urogynecology and Urodynamics Theory and Practice Fourth Edition; 1996
	KARRAM, MICKEY M., BHATIA, NARENDER N.; "Patch procedure: Modified Transvaginal Fascia Lata Sling for recurrent or severe stress urinary incontinence"; Mar. 1990
	KERSEY J.; "The gauze hammock sling operation in the treatment of stress incontinence"; British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Vol. 90 pp. 945-949; October 1983
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		5,899,909	05/04/99	Claren et al.			
		5,904,692	05/18/99	Steckel et al.			
		5,934,283	08/10/99	Willem et al.			
		5,971,967	10/26/99	Willard			
		6,030,393	02/29/00	Corlew			
		6,042,534	03/28/00	Gellman et al.			
		6,042,536	03/28/00	Tihon et al.			
		6,063,094	05/16/00	Rosenberg			
		6,068,591	05/30/00	Bruckner et al.			

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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		EP 0 778 749	12/27/00	EPO			
		WO 01/52750	07/26/01	WIPO			
		EP 1 151 722 A	11/07/01	EPO			
		EP 1 159 921 A	12/05/01	EPO			
		EP 0 854 691 B	01/02/02	EPO			
		WO 02/02031	01/10/02	WIPO			
		WO 02/19946	03/14/02	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	LICHTENSTEIN, IRVING L., SHULMAN, ALEX G., AMID, PARVIZ K., MONTLLOR, MICHELE M.; "The Tension-Free Hernioplasty"; The American Journal of Surgery Vol. 157; Feb. 1989
	MCINDOE, G.A.J., JONES, R.W., GRIEVE B.W.; "The Aldridge Sling Procedure in the Treatment of Urinary Stress Incontinence"; Aust NZ J Obstet Gynaecol; 1987
	MORGAN, J.E.; "A sling operation, using Marlex polypropylene mesh, for treatment of recurrent strss incontinence"; (publication date unknown)
	NARIK, G., PALMRICH, A.H.; "A simplified sling operation suitable for routine use"; (publication date unknown)
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